GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4894
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2003
INQUIRY COMMISSION ON TEHLKA TAPES
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;RAMJI LAL SUMAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are conducting an enquiry through an Inquiry Commission into the Tehlka Tapes which exposed corruption indulged by certain politicians and the officials of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the date on which the said inquiry of tapes was started and the time stipulated to complete the inquiry;

(c) whether the said inquiry was not completed in the prescribed time limit;

(d) if so, the dates on which the tenure of the said Commission was extended and the period for which it was extended; and

(e) the details of the inquiry points set to be looked into by the Commission?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PRODUCTION & SUPPLIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4894 24.4.2003

Following certain allegations made in the videotapes and transcripts released by Tehelka.com under the name of `Operation West End`, Government set up Justice K Venkataswami Commission of Inquiry vide Notification dated 24.3.2001.The Commission started functioning from 30.3.2001 and initially, the inquiry was to be completed by 23.7.2001.

The tenure of the Commission has been extended as per the detail shown in the table below:

Date on which the tenure was extended	Period for which the tenure was extended
23.7.2001	4 months i.e. upto 23.11.2001
23.11.2001	4 months i.e. upto 23.3.2002
20.3.2002	6 months i.e. upto 23.9.2002
21.9.2002	Beyond 23.9.2002 and upto 31.1.2003
4.1.2003	6 months w.e.f. 4.1.2003 i.e. upto 3.7.2003

Justice S.N. Phukan has been appointed as new chairman of the Commission vide Government Notification dated 4.1.2003.The terms of reference of the Commission are as follows:-

(a) to inquire whether the transactions relating to Defence and other procurements referred to in the said videotapes and transcripts have been carried out in terms of the prescribed procedures and the imperatives of national security;

(b) to inquire whether in any of the aforesaid procurement transactions, illicit gains have been made by persons in public office, individuals, and any other organization as alleged, and if so, to what extent;

(c) to suggest action that may be taken in respect of persons who may be found responsible by the Commission for their acts of commission and/or omission in respect of the transactions referred to in sub-clause (a) above;

(d) to inquire into all aspects relating to the making and publication of these allegations and any other matter which arises from or is connected with or incidental to any act, omission or transaction referred to in sub-clauses (a) and (b) above.